

Chamacristapavonis, long as it looks, is but by one syllable longer than a somewhat recent generic name *Pseudocymopterus*, and is of just the same length as *Neowashingtonia*, still more recently proposed.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TWO MISINTERPRETED SPECIES OF XYRIS

BY ROLAND M. HARPER

The name *Xyris flexuosa* Muhl. has been almost always applied to a certain widely distributed species which is about the only representative of its genus over most of the glaciated region of the northeastern United States.* This name is usually considered as dating from the first edition of Muhlenberg's Catalogue, published in 1813, but in that work there is nothing by which the species can be definitely identified, and indeed no specific descriptions were attempted in the whole catalogue. (The words in the fourth column, on which so much stress was laid by Mr. Bicknell and Dr. Robinson in discussing the identity of certain species of *Agrimonia* a few years ago, are expressly stated by Muhlenberg in his preface to be merely the English names of the species, and they cannot therefore be regarded as descriptions.) For the original description of *Xyris flexuosa* we must turn to the first part of the first volume of Elliott's Botany of South Carolina and Georgia, published in 1816, in which four species of *Xyris* were recognized. Two of these were new, based on the collections of Dr. Baldwin in Georgia, and another was identified by Elliott with *X. brevipolia* Mx., but was later found by Dr. Chapman to be quite different, and named by him *Xyris Elliottii*. The remaining one is *X. flexuosa* Muhl., and the description, habitat, and time of flowering assigned to it point clearly enough to a plant with corkscrew-like stem and twisted leaves which we now know to range from New Jersey to Florida and Texas, mostly in the pine-barrens, and which was known to nearly all 19th century authors as *X. torta*. Elliott gives as a synonym *X. caroliniana* Walt., but this species can hardly be identified, since it was the

* See *Rhodora* 7: 73. 1905.

only *Xyris* mentioned by Walter, and the description gives none of the characters by which the several species are now distinguished from each other. There is said to be no specimen bearing this name in Walter's herbarium, but even if there was it would not validate a totally inadequate description, so the name *X. caroliniana* Walt. should be dropped entirely, unless we accept the interpretations of Lamarck, Vahl and other authors who published between the times of Walter and Elliott. In 1860 Elliott's *Xyris flexuosa* was identified by Dr. Chapman with his own *X. platylepis*, and if this identification was correct *X. platylepis* would become a synonym; but it was evidently not correct, and Dr. Chapman himself questioned it in the last edition of his Flora, in 1897.

As for *Xyris torta*, described by J. E. Smith in the 39th volume of Rees's Cyclopaedia in 1819, Dr. A. B. Rendle showed a few years ago* that that was really the common northern plant known for years as *X. flexuosa*; and on this representation *X. torta* was relegated to synonymy in Britton's Manual and Small's Flora. But according to the evidence brought out above, both names seem to be valid, though they will have to be interchanged, as follows:

XYRIS FLEXUOSA Muhl.; Ell. Bot. S. C. & Ga. 1: 51. 1816.

? *X. caroliniana* Walt. Fl. Car. 69. 1788. (Unrecognizable.)

"*X. torta* J. E. Smith" Kunth, Enum. 4: 14. 1843; and many subsequent authors.

X. arnicola Small, Fl. S. E. U. S. 234. 1903.

Range: New Jersey to Florida and Texas, in the coastal plain, especially in the pine-barrens.

XYRIS TORTA J. E. Smith (no. 11), Rees's Cycl. 1819.

X. bulbosa Kunth, Enum. 4: 11. 1843.

"*X. flexuosa* Muhl." Chapm., Fl. S. U. S. 500. 1860; and all or nearly all subsequent authors.

Range: Eastern United States and adjacent Canada, chiefly in the glaciated region.

Other synonyms can be found in the paper by Dr. Rendle mentioned above. Dr. Small, who has given this genus consid-

* Jour. Bot. 37: 497-499. 1899.

erable study, believes the Cuban *X. conocephala* Sauv. (proposed as a substitute by Dr. Rendle) distinct from the North American pine-barren species.

COLLEGE POINT, NEW YORK.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1905.

This meeting was held in the afternoon at the N. Y. Botanical Garden, President Rusby in the chair and 42 members and visitors present.

Miss Caroline R. Dana, of Newark, and Dr. Wilhelm K. Kubin, of New York, were elected to membership.

The meeting was devoted to the exhibition and discussion of the various forms of American violets.

The following persons exhibited living material: A. Cuthbert, Augusta, Ga., *Viola Carolina*; C. D. Beadle, Biltmore, N. C., *V. villosa* and *V. tripartita*; F. M. Rolfs, Lake City, Fla., *V. multicaulis* and *V. Carolina*; President Ezra Brainerd, Middlebury, Vt., *V. septentrionalis*, *V. Brainerdi*, *V. LeConteana*, *V. rotundifolia*, *V. rostrata* and *V. arcnaria*; Geo. E. Osterhout, New Windsor, Col., *V. nephrophylla*, *V. retusa* and *V. Nutallii*; Miss F. A. Mulford, Hempstead, N. Y., *V. pedata*, *V. Mulfordae*, *V. Brittoniana* and *V. sagittata*; Professor H. H. Rusby, Forest Hill, N. J., *V. villosa*, *V. sagittata*, *V. palmata*, *V. pubescens*, *V. scabriuscula*, *V. cucullata* and *V. labradorica*; Miss Lillie Angell, Orange, N. J., *V. Angellae*; Miss Delia W. Marble, Bedford, N. Y., *V. pubescens*, *V. papilionacea*, *V. palmata*, *V. cucullata* and *V. blanda*; Dr. J. Schneck, Mount Carmel, Ills., *V. striata*, *V. papilionacea* (three forms), and *V. Rafinesquii*; R. C. Schneider, *V. lanceolata*; Percy Wilson, *V. cucullata*, *V. papilionacea*, *V. lanceolata*, *V. rotundifolia*, *V. scabriuscula*, *V. pubescens*, *V. labradorica*, *V. fimbriatula* and *V. palmata*; Quercus Shafer, *V. palmata*, *V. cucullata*, *V. obliqua* and *V. blanda*; and W. W. Eggleston, *V. obliqua*, *V. palmata*, *V. sororia*, *V. cucullata*, *V. Porteriana*, *V. fimbriatula* and *V. palmata*.

Extensive herbarium material was also exhibited.